

Application No.: 09/631,898
Amendment dated: April 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2005
Attorney Docket No.: 0016.0003us1

c.) Remarks

Claims 1-10, 12-26, and 28-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 12, 17, 23-26, 28-31, 33-36 and 38 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove. Claims 11 and 27 have been cancelled.

Turning to the outstanding Office Action, clarification of the status of the claims is requested.

First, please recall that claims 24-39 are directed to a non-elected invention, yet these claims appear to have been examined.

Also, the Office Action Summary indicates that claims 1-10, 12-36, 38 and 39 are allowed.

Clarification is requested.

In any event, in an effort the expedite prosecution, independent claims 1, 12, 24, 30, and 34 have been amended to include the feature of multiple director devices.


In more detail, claim 1 has been amended to describe a plurality of director devices corresponding to network domains to incorporate the subject matter of allowed, now-cancelled claim 11. In a somewhat similar vein, claim 12 has been amended to describe using a plurality of director devices corresponding to different network domains to facilitate receipt of information on network traffic from sensors. Claim 24 has been amended to describe a communications interface for coupling to at least one of a plurality of hierarchically organized director devices that are coupled to each other to facilitate data collection analysis and regulation, as in original, allowed claim 27. Claim 30 has been amended to describe a plurality of hierarchically organized director devices that are coupled to each other to facilitate data collection, analysis and traffic regulation and issue moderation instructions. This is similar in theme to the allowed subject matter of claim 27. Finally, claim 34 has been amended to describe director devices in different network domains similar to allowed claim 11.

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Thus, the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-16, 19-26, 29-31, 33-37 and 39 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,529,475 to Wan *et al.* or the rejection of claims 6, 7, 17, 18, 28, 32 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable or obvious over the Wan *et al.* patent is believed to be overcome. Specifically, these claimed features are not shown or suggested by this applied reference.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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